

natives and life-long residents of my hometown, Tarkio, Missouri. They will be celebrating their Fiftieth Wedding Anniversary on Sunday, June 20, 2004.

Duane and Rowena were married in 1954 at St. John's Lutheran Church in Westboro, Missouri. They both graduated from Tarkio High School, Rowena in 1949 and Duane in 1948. Duane served two years in the United States Army during the Korean War and returned to Tarkio to farm for forty-seven years. He retired from farming in 1997. Rowena worked at the local Hy-Vee Food Store and the Flesher Pharmacy in Tarkio. They are both active in the county 4-H organization, the Atchison County Fair, and the St. John's Lutheran Church.

Duane and Rowena have one son and daughter-in-law, Donald and Mitzi Broermann. They have two grandchildren, Eric and Tyler. Rowena is a housewife and a member of the Red Hat Society. Duane is a member of the St. John's Church Choir and enjoys playing ping-pong and golfing with his friends. Both will tell you their main hobby is their grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in commending this exemplary couple for their dedication to community, family, and church. Duane and Rowena are exceptionally fine assets to the Sixth District of Missouri. I am proud of them and wish them well on their Fiftieth Anniversary.

#### UNITED STATES REFINERY REVITALIZATION ACT OF 2004

SPEECH OF

**HON. BETTY McCOLLUM**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, June 16, 2004*

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleague to join me in opposing a bill that fails to protect human health, our environment and our economy. In the name of reducing gas prices, the House today is debating legislation that will allow the Secretary of Energy to overturn the environmental and health concerns of our federal, state and local leaders.

We need to increase our Nation's refinery capacity. Refineries are running full speed to meet gasoline demand. There are many reasons, however, why the number of domestic refineries has declined since the early 1980s. Congress should examine how consolidation in this industry affects gas prices.

There have been no hearings on today's bill. No record has been established that fully describes the impact of this legislation on gasoline prices, refining capacity, our environment and especially our public health. Instead of finding ways to ensure that our refineries protect the public's health, House Republican leaders want to allow the Secretary of Energy to override clean air, clean water and hazardous waste laws. There was recently a discharge from a local refinery in Newport, Minnesota. My constituents were concerned that their homes and yards were covered with a fine white dust when they woke up a few weeks ago. They didn't know the dust wasn't toxic and dangerous to their health. This bill doesn't protect their public health from future threats.

The Environmental Council of the States, the National Conference of State Legislatures

and the Association of Local Air Pollution Control Officials oppose this bill. The House should heed their warnings and reject this bill today.

#### A TRIBUTE TO AL BURCH

**HON. FRANK R. WOLF**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. WOLF. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to recognize Al Burch, who has served northern Virginia as an educator for 42 years. Mr. Burch spent 32 years as the principal of Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, Virginia. After over four decades of dedicated service to our youths, Mr. Burch announced his retirement earlier this month.

I am proud to call attention to the achievements and dedication of Mr. Burch as he ends his career as an educator and principal. I would also like to share a recent article from The Arlington Catholic Herald which honors Mr. Burch and describes his many accomplishments.

[From the Arlington Catholic Herald, May 20, 2004]

FORTY-TWO-YEAR RUN COMES TO AN END FOR  
O'CONNELL'S BURCH

(By Mary Frances McCarthy)

In 2001, at the beginning of his 40th year at Bishop O'Connell High School in Arlington, Principal Al Burch told the Herald, "In about two or three years I'll be ready to retire."

Three years later, the O'Connell family is saying goodbye to Burch, a much-loved and respected coach and administrator who has worked at the school for all but four years of its existence. A farewell Mass and party will be held at the school on June 5 at 5 p.m.

When his career began, Burch never imagined he would spend 32 years as an administrator.

After graduating from the University of Corpus Christi in Texas with a bachelor's degree in education, Burch thought that "Everyone would hire me because I was so good at sports." Burch attended the university on a football scholarship.

When coaching jobs didn't fall at his feet as he thought they would, he took a job at Surrattsville Junior High in Clinton, Md., teaching history, science and English.

In 1961, Burch learned of an opening in physical education at O'Connell through Bob Rusevlyan, athletic director. Burch took the job, teaching health and physical education and coaching football, baseball and basketball. Under his leadership, the O'Connell 1963-65 baseball teams were Catholic League champions and gained nationwide recognition in the Baseball Hall of Fame in Cooperstown, NY, for winning 42 consecutive games.

Coinciding with the beginning of co-education at Bishop O'Connell, Burch was named assistant principal under Msgr. McMurtrie in 1972.

"I owe a lot to Msgr. McMurtrie," Burch said. "He saw it was my dream to keep coaching, but he saw something in me that maybe I didn't see."

While Burch was assistant principal, coaching three sports and raising three kids, he went back to school to get a master's degree in education at American University. "And I still haven't slept well since then," Burch said.

His coaching career ended in 1977, when he was named principal of O'Connell by former Arlington Bishop Thomas J. Welsh.

In the first 10 years Burch was at O'Connell, the school grew from 1,000 students to 1,600 students, with a wait list 200 students long. In 1982, Bishop Welsh opened Paul VI Catholic High School to ease the strain on O'Connell.

Now, in a diocese with three diocesan high schools and three private Catholic high schools, Burch said, "The chemistry of O'Connell is what makes it different." With more than 110 teachers, 12 are Sisters of the Immaculate Heart of Mary, 18 are retired military personnel and 28 are O'Connell graduates. Burch said he has prided himself by being able to "put talent where they belong."

"Surrounding myself with great people has been the key to my success," he said. "Sitting back and watching them work has been a joy."

To Burch, O'Connell's teachers are all first draft teachers. He has organized his school much like he would a baseball or football team. Only the best are good enough for him.

"That chemistry, and people who want to be here, I'm proud of that," Burch said. "We've been able to maintain that we are a Catholic school." Burch said O'Connell has had more than 65 alumni who have pursued religious vocations.

Dr. Timothy McNiff, diocesan superintendent of schools, said that Burch's leadership "epitomizes the uniqueness required of those individuals who have been given the task of ensuring our Catholic schools are institutions of both academic success and Christian values."

O'Connell was recognized by the U.S. Department of Education in 1993 as a Blue Ribbon School and Burch was honored by The Washington Post in 1997 when he was named a "Principal of Excellence."

In his retirement, Burch said, he will miss the students above all else. "I enjoy seeing them," he said. "I think O'Connell comes closer to that term, family. People return to O'Connell. They're very happy here."

Burch looks forward to continuing his relationship with Bishop O'Connell High School and working with the alumni. In ongoing renovations at O'Connell, he still hopes to see an Alumni of Distinction hall. "There are people out there doing great things," O'Connell has over 15,000 graduates. "They're really making a positive impact on society. I hear good stuff."

All three of Burch's children—Kenny, Karen and Kristy—are among those graduates. Burch hopes that one day, his five grandchildren, "if they study and work hard," will go to O'Connell too, and become members of the O'Connell family.

"I consider myself blessed and fortunate," Burch said. "It's been a great job. I didn't have to work to make O'Connell classy. It's always been a class act."

#### TRIBUTE TO DR. FREDERICK S. CONLIN, JR., DDS

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Friday, June 18, 2004*

Mr. NEAL. Mr. Speaker, it is my great honor today to pay tribute to Dr. Frederick S. Conlin, Jr., DDS. Dr. Frederick S. Conlin, Jr., DDS will retire this June from both politics and his practice in dentistry after more than 30 years. Dr. Conlin has had a general practice in dentistry for 38 years in West Springfield, MA, and has been a model citizen in our city. He held many honors in both of these fields, including being